Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board

ISICSB Newsletter

Note from the ISICSB Chair

With ISICS close to system acceptance, it is essential to look back and recognize the accomplishments the committees, board members, working groups, and project management staff have made to get the State of Iowa to this point.

The concept of a Statewide radio system for interoperability dates back to 2004 with a task force formed in Iowa. In 2007, the Board was formed and took enormous steps to provide a method for public safety to communicate effectively and efficiently. Old technology, VHF conventional, has given us a full lifespan and has served public safety with what the technology would allow since the 1970s.

With the sunset of LEA across Iowa at the end of October, Interoperability moves a step ahead, providing more flexibility and a solid backbone with 700 Mhz trunking. ISICS is now available in all PSAPs in Iowa, which will give PSAPs the ability to use the old with the new until their system is at the end of life.

In the next year, ISICS will continue to grow with more users on the system for interoperability purposes.   As agencies purchase radios, it is essential to have the ISICS interoperability talkgroups in their radios to prepare for the current day and the future. Now that all the PSAPs have the capability of accessing the system, radios in the cars and portables on the street become even more critical for effective communication during events.

Thank you all for the support of the ISICS system in Iowa.

ISICSB MISSION

"The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system."

ISICSB VISION

"All emergency response entities in and around Iowa can access interoperable communications systems."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ The September 10, 2020 ISICSB meeting will be held via GoTo Meeting only **JOIN MEETING**
Web Link: *https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/284112749*

♦ RPC Meeting Announcement—Region 15 700 & 800 MHz Regional Planning Committees Meeting
MORE INFO
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/meeting/region-15-700-800-mhz-regional-planning-committees-meeting*

♦ The Air to Ground Policy is now posted for public comment and will remain open for comment until October 13, 2020 @ 11:59 pm CDT **MORE INFO**
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/policies/2020-aa-air-ground-policy*

♦ If you would like to join one of the Regional Interoperability Committees, click **HERE**
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/resources/forms/committee-membership-application*

♦ Announcement for current and future FirstNet Users and those with questions regarding FirstNet
READ MORE
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/current-future-firstnet-users*

IN THIS ISSUE

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES

• FirstNet FAQs
• Get to Know Iowa's AT&T/ FirstNet Representatives
• ISICS Standards
• Outreach Survey
• Public Safety Spotlight
• RIC Information

NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ **New Training Opportunity**—Encryption Planning and Usage for Technical Staff
MORE INFO
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/event/encryption-planning-usage-technical-staff*

⇒ **New Training Opportunity**—RIC 1 ISICS Training for Frontline Dispatchers & ISICS Interoperability Update
MORE INFO
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/event/ric-1-isics-training-frontline-dispatchers-isics-update*

⇒ **New Training Opportunity**—Fall 2020 In-Service/EVERYONE is Leading - Motivating Todays Leader's for Tomorrow's Challenges
MORE INFO
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/event/fall-2020-service*

⇒ **New Training Opportunity**—Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) / Communications Plan Review & Development
MORE INFO
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/event/standard-operating-procedures-sop-communications-plan-review-development*

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

View calendar **HERE**
Calendar Web Link:
https://isicsb.iowa.gov/events/month/2020-09

Public Safety Spotlight:
Brian Blodgett, Chief—Buffalo Center Fire Department

Technology is a tool we use to do what we need to do when we need to do what we do. . . . . . That is a mouthful, but how I approach technology integration into our lives. The state-wide radio system and FirstNet are great technology additions to our state.

My name is Brian Blodgett, Fire Chief of Buffalo Center Volunteer Fire Department, and I have been with the department for over 20 years. Public safety, and even more so being part of building systems to ensure public safety, has always been a passion of mine.

After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, I spent the middle part of the 1990s teaching high school physics at North Iowa Community School. As the internet started to take off, I found my interests moving towards technology, and I spent a few summers receiving certifications with Cisco. Over the last 25 years, I have started and built an IT support company with a team of around 50.

I really enjoy being part of ISICS. As the chair of RIC 2, I work with two great co-chairs, Joel Rohne of Worth County and Andy Flagge of Wright County. RIC 2 members have been very active and had great success in implementing not only the ISICS radio system but also FirstNET.

As someone from a small county and fire department made up of all volunteers, I am very pleased with how the system is built to support everyone in the state -- large and small, urban, or metro. An additional item I am excited about is how our region and Minnesota have collaborated to develop and test processes to interoperate between our states. As a chief that borders Minnesota, talking with our neighbors across that invisible line has always been a struggle. With the new protocols and technologies in place, we really can do what we need to do when we need to do it.

I would encourage everyone to join their local Regional Interoperability Committee (RIC).

If anyone is interested in joining, please signup online - https://isicsb.iowa.gov/iowa-statewide-interoperable-communications-system-isics

*** If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in our Public Safety Spotlight, please email Hollie Davidson @ hdavidso@dps.state.ia.us ***
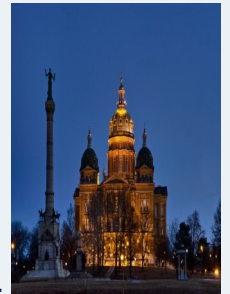
Note from the SWIC

Once again, the past month in 2020 was a very trying one for many of us. The derecho will no doubt go down as one of the most impactful disasters we've seen in a long time. I want to thank all of our public safety, public service, and utility crew personnel that worked tirelessly to protect the public and restore services as quickly as possible.

I am happy to report that the ISICS Platform as a whole survived the event with minimal service disruptions to state-built assets. The ISICSB and DPS have also been working to support local agencies with various response and recovery efforts.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment.

Strange Iowa Laws

⇒ It is illegal for mustached men to kiss women in public.
⇒ It is illegal for a kiss to last longer than 5 minutes.
⇒ It is illegal to sell drugs without a drug tax stamp.
⇒ One-armed piano players must perform for free.
⇒ It is a crime to use a dead person's handicapped parking sign or license plate.
⇒ Ministers must obtain a permit to carry their liquor across state lines.
⇒ In Cedar Rapids, it is illegal to read a person's palms in the city limits.
⇒ In Ottumwa, a man may not wink at any woman he does not know.
⇒ In Marshalltown, horses are forbidden to eat fire hydrants.
⇒ In Mount Vernon, one must obtain written permission from the City Council before throwing bricks or stones into a highway.
⇒ The Iowa Legislature once passed a resolution ordering the state cafeteria to start serving cornbread.

Trivia Question:

What year did the Iowa Hawkeyes football team start competing in the Big Ten Conference?

*** Answer on Page 5 ***

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board

ISICS User News

New ISICS Users

* Bremer County Sheriff's Office
* Clayton County (update)
* Ida County (update)

To Join ISICS

For more info about joining ISICS click **HERE** or go to the following:
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/iowa-statewide-interoperable-communications-system-isics*

To start the process to JOIN ISICS click **HERE** or go to the following:
Web Link: https://www.jotform.com/isicsb/Join-ISICS

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the ISICS joining process, please contact SWIC Maiers at **maiers@dps.state.ia.us**.

Recent News

*** Click **HERE** to view the August 13, 2020, ISICSB Board Meeting ***
Web Link: *https://youtu.be/KwHEnUiv1uc*

*** Click **HERE** to read the August 13, 2020, ISICSB Board Meeting Minutes***
Web Link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/meetings/minutes/2020-09/2020-08-13_isicsb_meeting_minutes_draft_cm_reviewed.pdf*
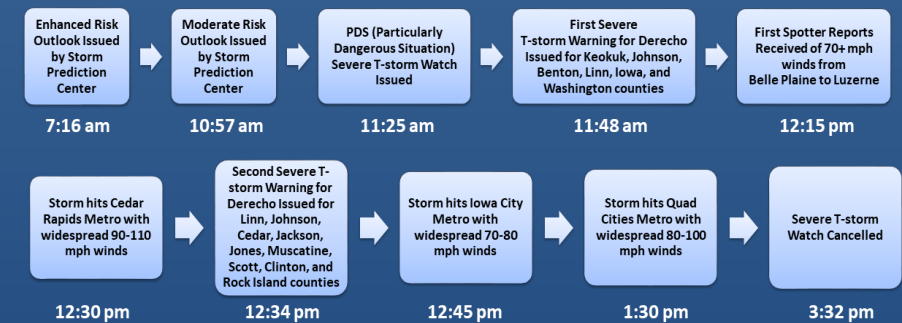
ISICS System Update

Recently, four Iowa counties have cut over to the ISICS system. Since June 2020, the following four counties are using the ISICS system operationally: Fremont County, Greene County, Hamilton County, and Adair County.

Committee Chair & Vice-Chair Vacancies

There are several ISICSB Committee Chair and Vice-Chair vacant positions that need filled. The Committee Chair positions must be filled by an ISICSB Board Member. However, Vice-Chair positions can be filled by anyone. Vacant positions include both a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Finance and Outreach Committees, and a Chairperson for the Training & Exercise Committee.

If you are interested in filling one of the vacant Committee positions, please contact SWIC Maiers @ **maiers@dps.state.ia.us**.

Derecho Facts

⇒ A derecho (pronounced duh-REY-cho) produces a swath of particularly damaging thunderstorm winds (specifically, wind gusts of at least 58 mph along most of its length with several well-separated 75 mph or greater gusts) over an area at least 250 miles long.
⇒ Wind speeds in a derecho can exceed 100 mph, which is equivalent to that of an EF-1 tornado, but over a vastly larger area than a tornado would impact.
⇒ Tornadoes can also be embedded within derechos and produce concentrated areas of even more intense damage.
⇒ Derechos develop in an environment with very warm and moist air at the surface, colder air aloft, and moderate to strong winds at upper levels of the atmosphere.
⇒ The term was originated by Dr. Gustavus Hinrichs of the University of Iowa, first appearing in the *American Meteorological Journal* in 1888; he coined the term to distinguish straight-line winds from the damage caused by tornadoes (the word "derecho" comes from the Spanish term meaning "direct" or "straight ahead").

August 10th 2020 Derecho Timeline

Enhanced Risk Outlook Issued by Storm Prediction Center	Moderate Risk Outlook Issued by Storm Prediction Center	PDS (Particularly Dangerous Situation) Severe T-storm Watch Issued	First Severe T-storm Warning for Derecho Issued for Keokuk, Johnson, Benton, Linn, Iowa, and Washington counties	First Spotter Reports Received of 70+ mph winds from Belle Plaine to Luzerne
7:16 am	10:57 am	11:25 am	11:48 am	12:15 pm
Storm hits Cedar Rapids Metro with widespread 90-110 mph winds	Second Severe T-storm Warning for Derecho Issued for Linn, Johnson, Cedar, Jackson, Jones, Muscatine, Scott, Clinton, and Rock Island counties	Storm hits Iowa City Metro with widespread 70-80 mph winds	Storm hits Quad Cities Metro with widespread 80-100 mph winds	Severe T-storm Watch Cancelled
12:30 pm	12:34 pm	12:45 pm	1:30 pm	3:32 pm

Additional Notes:
* Longevity of severe winds lingered for 30+ minutes causing widespread damage
* Additional warnings were issued east through all of Illinois

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
QUAD CITIES IA/IL
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

8/23/2020 2:32 PM

ISICS/ISICSB CONTACTS

Thomas Lampe
ISICSB Chair, Bureau Chief
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
lampe@dps.state.ia.us

David Ness
ISICSB Vice-Chair, Captain
Des Moines Police Department
DMNess@dmgov.org

Chris Maiers
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
maiers@dps.state.ia.us

Hollie Davidson
Administrative Assistant
ISICSB/Iowa Department of Public Safety
hdavidso@dps.state.ia.us

CURRENT ISICS USERS AS OF AUGUST 26, 2020

- 10th District Reserve Law Enforcement
- 185th Iowa Air National Guard
- 5th Judicial District
- Adair Guthrie EMA
- Adams County EMA
- Air Methods
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Bureau of
- Altoona Fire Department
- Altoona Police Department
- Altoona Public Works
- Ankeny Fire Department
- Ankeny Police Department
- Atkins, City of
- Audubon County Sheriff's Office
- Aurelia Fire Department
- Benton County
- Blakesburg Fire & Rescue
- Bondurant Fire Department
- Boone County
- Buchanan County
- Buena Vista County Sheriff's Office
- Buena Vista EMA
- Butler County 911
- Calhoun County EMA
- Camp Township Fire Department
- Carlisle Fire Department
- Carroll County
- Cass County
- Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office
- Cherokee County
- Chickasaw County 911
- Chickasaw County EMA
- City of Cedar Rapids
- Clark County Emergency Management
- Clark County Sheriff's Office
- Clay County
- Clayton County
- Coulter Fire Department
- Crawford County
- Dallas County
- Delaware Township Fire Department
- Dept. of Homeland Security – Emergency Communications Division Regional Coordinator
- Des Moines International Airport
- Des Moines Police Department
- Dickinson County Emergency Management
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Elkhart Fire Department
- Fayette County Sheriff's Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- FEMA Region 7
- Fonda Police Department
- Freeborn County, Minnesota
- Fremont County
- Granger Fire Department
- Greene County
- Grundy County
- Hamilton County
- Hancock County
- Harrison County
- Henry County
- Humboldt County
- Ida County
- Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- Iowa County Sheriff's Office
- Iowa Department of Corrections - Clarinda
- Iowa Department of Corrections - Fort Madison
- Iowa Department of Corrections - Mt. Pleasant
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt.
- Iowa National Guard
- Jackson County EMA
- Jasper County
- Jewell Fire Rescue
- Johnson County JECC
- Johnston Grimes Metro Fire Department
- Johnston Police Department
- Jones County
- Keokuk County EMA
- Keokuk County Sheriff's Office
- Kossuth County
- Lee County EMA
- Linn County Sheriff's Office
- Madison County
- Mahaska County
- Mapleton Police Department
- Marion County Sheriff
- Mercy Ambulance Des Moines
- MICRN
- Mills County
- Mitchell County EMA
- Mitchellville Fire Department
- Mitchellville Police Department
- Monona County
- Montgomery County EMA
- Muscatine County
- Northern Warren Fire
- Osceola, City of
- Page County
- Palo Alto EMA
- Pella Police Department
- Pleasant Hill Fire Department
- Pleasant Hill Police Department
- Polk City Fire Department
- Polk City Police Department
- Polk County
- Pottawattamie County
- Region 6 LEPC
- Ringgold County
- Saylor Township Fire Department
- Scott County Health Dept.
- Shelby County
- Taylor County
- Tipton Ambulance Service
- Union County LEC
- United States Marshal's Service
- Unity Point Des Moines
- University of Iowa Public Safety
- University of Northern Iowa
- Urbandale Schools
- US Army Corps of Engineers - Lake Red Rock
- US Capitol Police
- US Office of Inspector General Health and Human Services
- US Probation Office (USPO) Southern Iowa
- Van Buren County 911
- Virginia Township Fire Rescue
- Warren County
- Waukee Schools
- Waukon Police Department
- Westcom
- Windsor Heights, City of
- Wings Air Rescue
- Winnebago County
- Winneshiek County
- Winneshiek County Emergency Mgmt.
- Woodbury County
- Worth County
- Wright County

Resources

Documents

- **August 2020 ISICSB Meeting Minutes**
  Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/meetings/minutes/2020-09/2020-08-13_isicsb_meeting_minutes_draft_cm_reviewed.pdf
- **Approved ISICS Standards**
  Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/resources/policies/isics-standards
- **2020—2023 Iowa Statewide Communications Plan (SCIP)**
  Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/12/2019-2020_iowa_scip_11.18.19_draft_1315.pdf

Training Videos

- **Consolette/Control Station Training**
  Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsOiW0BCAQo&feature=youtu.be
- **ISICS Standard 1.5.0—Regional & Statewide Interoperability Talkgroups**
  Web Link: https://youtu.be/wpS3YSaIZMk
- **StatusBoard End User Training**
  Web Link: https://youtu.be/Ar_JiLca3El

YouTube Videos

- **Iowa Total Interoperability**
  Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoAe5bo94mE&feature=youtu.be
- **ISICS Technology**
  Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Kr1CF7xYwo&feature=youtu.be
- **ISICS System Live Demo**
  Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMQflwXfQF8&feature=youtu.be

FirstNet News

Note from Iowa's FirstNet Authority Representative

When an outage happens, FirstNet subscribers can reach out for help – either by calling the customer care line (1-800-574-7000) or their local FirstNet consultant. This will funnel to the FirstNet Response Operations Group, and they will prioritize getting you back up and running. And don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Additionally, I would like to encourage users to access the advanced network status tool within the FirstNet Central portal. Through the portal, you can get notifications of network outages, planned maintenance, and see down to the street level which sites have been affected and the potential impact on your area. This was a key ask from public safety going back to the consultation days and another way FirstNet is YOUR network. I encourage anyone reading this to reach out to your FirstNet rep or me for help accessing or using this important tool.

Please contact me at kyle.richardson@firstnet.gov. or 202.510.8122.

Kyle S. Richardson
Senior Public Safety Advisor
(Region VII - IA, NE, MO, KS + OH)
First Responder Network Authority
Kyle.Richardson@FirstNet.gov

FirstNet Iowa Contacts

David Barnett
Principal Consultant FirstNet IA
m: 931.218.8734
db145a@att.com

Danny Noble
FirstNet Territory Manager—Northern Plains
Public Safety Solutions
AT&T Mobility Services LLC
m: 260.242.3429
dn512r@att.com

Kyle Richardson
Senior Public Safety Advisor—Region VII (IA, NE, MO, KS, OH)
m: 202.510.8122
Kyle.Richardson@firstnet.gov

New FirstNet Sites

- One new 4G LTE & HD Voice Small Cell Node has launched near the airport in **Des Moines, IA**

Recent News

*** Click **HERE** to view the August 2020 FirstNet Newsletter ***
Web link: *https://isicsb.iowa.gov/recent-news/2020-08-28/august-2020-firstnet-newsletter*

5G Announcement—AT&T

In August, AT&T announced nationwide 5G sites including **Iowa's first AT&T 5G site in Sioux City**. The new site will allow Sioux City's consumers and businesses to be even more connected with faster downloads and increased bandwidth.

Over the past several years, policy makers have enacted regulatory policies that have allowed AT&T to invest $110 million in our state between 2017 and 2019.

Beginning in 2015, with the passage of HF 655 - the cell citing/macro site legislation, Iowa established a statewide regulatory framework for investment in wireless communications and infrastructure. This bill passed both chambers overwhelmingly in a bi-partisan vote.

Then in 2017, the legislature enacted SF 431, legislation designed to simplify and streamline the process for the placement of small cell sites. This bi-partisan bill also passed by a wide margin and underscored the state's record of supporting regulatory measures that foster investment and innovation.

AT&T knows that sometimes bills like these can seem technical and the benefits may not seem immediately clear. However, we thank you and would like to point out the very real benefit your support has on investment and technology improvements in Iowa.

Trivia Answer:
1900

> "Law enforcement officers are never 'off duty.' They are dedicated public servants who are sworn to protect public safety at any time and place that the peace is threatened. They need all the help that they can get."
>
> ~ *Barbara Boxer*

FIRSTNET™
Built with AT&T

FirstNet Education

FirstNet Mission Statement

"The FirstNet mission is to deploy, operate, maintain, and improve the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. This reliable, highly secure, interoperable, and innovative public safety communications platform will bring 21st century tools to public safety agencies and first responders, allowing them to get more information quickly and helping them to make faster and better decisions."

FirstNet Resources

- **FirstNet in Iowa**
  Web Link: https://firstnet.gov/public-safety/firstnet-for/iowa

- **FirstNet Current & Future User Form**
  READ MORE
  Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/current-future-firstnet-users

- **FirstNet App Catalog**
  Web Link: https://www.firstnet.com/content/dam/firstnet/white-papers/2019_11_26_v1_FN_App_Catalog_Booklet_Full.pdf

- **FirstNet Checklist**
  Web Link: https://www.firstnet.com/content-dam/firstnet/marketing/pdf/Public-Safety-Communications-Checklist.pdf?LinkID=checklist

- **FirstNet Nationwide Coverage**
  Web Link: https://www.firstnet.com/coverage.html

- **FirstNet & Your Local Radio**
  Web Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2i3_HsVce4&feature=youtu.be

- **FirstNet Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**
  Web Link: https://isicsb.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019/06/firstnet_faqs.pdf

Understanding the FirstNet Deployable Program

What is provided?

⇒ 72 FirstNet Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT) and Cell on Wheels (COW) deployables, which are ground-based assets dedicated to FirstNet users

⇒ Agencies subscribing to FirstNet services can request deployable support 24/7 for disasters, critical incidents, and planned events

⇒ Provided at no cost to FirstNet subscriber agencies, including associated support costs (fuel, personnel, satellite airtime)

⇒ FirstNet deployables are distributed strategically throughout the United States

How does it work?

⇒ Can provide several miles of coverage (dependent upon site conditions)

⇒ Typically radiates Band 14 for best public safety experience

⇒ SatCOLTs establish backhaul via satellite

⇒ 14-hour on-air objective for emergent incident responses

⇒ Deployables are intended to support FirstNet users with FirstNet capable devices - not consumer cellular traffic

Who do you call?

⇒ Call FirstNet Customer Care: 1-800-574-7000

⇒ Be prepared to provide your FAN (Foundation Account Number)

⇒ Initial call information will be referred to the AT&T Response Operations Group (ROG) who will process the request on behalf of AT&T

What information will you need to provide?

⇒ Describe communications needs

⇒ Provide incident conditions such as environmental concerns

⇒ Specify the area requiring coverage

⇒ Discuss terrain and access such as road conditions, steep inclines, sharp curves, wash-outs or roadway/bridge restrictions. State if an escort will be required.

⇒ If unit is to be placed on a parking garage or other structure, provide height or weight restrictions, turning radius within building, etc.

Site setup requirements

⇒ Is the site secure?

⇒ Every deployable must have a minimum 100' safety perimeter, and should be placed at least 500' away from a command post or other areas with heavy responder radio traffic

⇒ Satellite requires a clear unobstructed view of the southern sky

⇒ Deployable generators will be refueled by AT&T, thus ongoing access is required

⇒ Once on site, deployables can be managed remotely from the network operations center – it is not necessary for technicians to remain on site

Use satellite resources wisely!

⇒ Deployables are dependent on satellite connectivity

⇒ Satellite bandwidth is a very limited resource and does not compare to the backhaul capabilities of terrestrial connections like fiber

⇒ Only stream video or use other high-bandwidth applications if they are necessary to the mission

⇒ Educate other users on the need to preserve bandwidth for mission critical applications

*** Click **HERE** for more information ***

Did you know?

- AT&T also offers 3 Flying Cell on Wings (COWs) and 1 aerostat—FirstNet One—to FirstNet subscriber agencies
- A Flying COW consists of 2 tethered drones and trailer and can reach heights of up to 400 ft., making it ideal for situations like wildfires or mountain rescue missions where terrain may make connectivity a challenge
- The FirstNet One is a 55-foot blimp for use after major incidents or natural disasters. It can give responders wide-scale portable connectivity, staying in air for about 2 weeks and flying up to 1,000 feet.
- These assets are also available 24/7 at no additional charge to agencies subscribing to FirstNet services. AT&T ROG will determine the best use of assets and vehicle platforms to address the mission needs based on the information provided.